

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-4 were pending. Claims 1 and 4 have been rewritten and Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1 and 4 are pending after entry of this amendment.

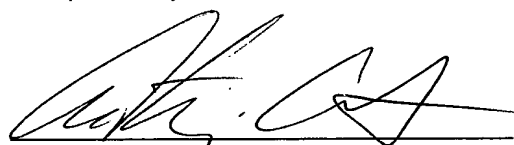
Rejection of Claims

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Jimbo (U.S. Patent 6,518,992). Claims 2 and 4 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant accordingly has rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 2 and rewritten Claim 4 to depend on Claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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